

Date August 6, 2001 Label No. EL856453750US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Sandra Stocklinski

Name (Print)

Sandra Stocklinski  
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: MICHALUK, *et al.*

Continuation Application No.: Unassigned

Filed: August 6, 2001

)  
)  
)  
)  
)

Parent Group Art Unit: 1742

Parent Examiner: Oltmans, A.

For: HIGH PURITY TANTALUM, PRODUCTS CONTAINING THE SAME, AND METHODS OF MAKING THE SAME

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 6, 2001

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application on the merits, applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At page 2, after the title, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of prior U.S. Patent Application No. 09/199,569 filed November 25, 1998.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 44-62 and 67-77 without disclaimer or prejudice of the subject matter set forth therein.

**REMARKS**

Prior to payment of the filing fees, please enter the above amendment.

No questions of new matter are raised by the above amendment. Entry of the above amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke A. Kilyk  
Registration No. 33,251

Attorney Docket No. 98048CON(3600-090-02)  
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.  
53A Lee Street  
Warrenton, VA 20186  
Tel: (540) 428-1701  
Fax: (540) 428-1720